

EPI Update for Friday, July 11, 2008
Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology
Iowa Department of Public Health

Items for this week's EPI Update include:

- **Flood related diseases**
- ***Salmonella* Saintpaul outbreak**
- ***Safe in the City* waiting room video study published**
- **Managing medication administration in Iowa schools**
- **Meeting announcements and training opportunities**

Flood related diseases

Studies of flood and earthquake disasters have shown that communicable disease outbreaks rarely result from such events. However, it is important that clinicians closely watch for three potential diseases in the wake of the devastating flood waters: Leptospirosis, and West Nile and LaCrosse encephalitis.

Leptospirosis commonly presents with fever of sudden onset, headache, chills, and severe myalgia (especially of the calves and thighs). Cases can be confused with meningitis, encephalitis, or influenza. *Leptospira interrogans* can be found in the urine of cattle, pigs, horse and other domestic and wild animals. Human infection occurs when contaminated water is ingested, aerosolized droplets are inhaled, or water enters the body through skin abrasions.

During flood clean up, people can be exposed to mud contaminated by the urine of animals infected with the spirochete *Leptospira interrogans*. Systemic illness occurs if the leptospiral bacteria enter the body through broken skin or mucous membranes.

West Nile fever and encephalitis is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. Less than 1 percent of those bitten by infected mosquitoes become severely ill. Symptoms include high fever, stiff neck, or severe headache. Another mosquito-borne illness is LaCrosse encephalitis. The majority of LaCrosse virus infections are sub-clinical or mild; but it can rarely cause severe illness such as encephalitis progressing to seizures and coma.

Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH), Iowa State University Department of Entomology (ISU), and the University Hygienic Laboratory (UHL) have mosquito and arbovirus surveillance programs. The University Hygienic Lab offers testing for the above diseases.

For more information visit:

www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5505a2.htm and
www.uhl.uiowa.edu/kitsquotesforms/clinicaltestmenu.pdf .

***Salmonella* Saintpaul outbreak**

Since April, 1017 persons infected with *Salmonella* Saintpaul (with the same genetic fingerprint) have been identified in 41 states, the District of Columbia, and Canada. There are two cases in Iowa. Among the 744 persons with information available, illnesses began between April 10 and June 26, 2008, including 300 who became ill on June 1 or later. Patients range in age from <1 to 99 years; 50 percent are female. At least 203 persons were hospitalized. The death of a man in Texas in his 80s has been associated with this outbreak. Investigation to find the cause is ongoing. For more information visit [:www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/](http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/saintpaul/)

***Safe in the City* waiting room video study published**

The findings of the multi-site *Safe in the City* waiting room video intervention trial have been released. The study showed a 10 percent reduction in new sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among STD clinic patients who were exposed to the video.

Safe in the City is a 23-minute HIV/STD prevention video designed for STD clinics that can be easily integrated into the clinic waiting room, requires very little staff time to set up with no disruption to clinic flow, and requires no counseling or small-group facilitation. Video interventions in clinic settings offer a practical mechanism for delivering HIV/STD prevention messages because of their low cost and ease of implementation, likely acceptability, and high likelihood of being adopted and sustained over time.

Iowa Department of Public Health, as a result of the increase in STD incidence, encourages local STD clinics to become familiar with *Safe in the City* and to consider implementing this intervention. For additional questions contact the STD prevention program at 515-281-4936

Managing medication administration in Iowa schools

Charlotte Burt, State School Nurse Consultant for the Iowa Department of Education, was recently recognized at the National Association of School Nurses Conference for her poster presentation "Medication Management in Iowa Schools," which outlined the comprehensive Web-based training that has been utilized by nurses across the state.

The Iowa Department of Education and the Center for Disabilities and Development at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics collaborated in developing the Web site and an online course for school nurses. It is being made available through the Iowa Department of Education as a resource to help ensure safe and effective medication administration at school for Iowa students and school staff. For more information visit: www.iowaschoolmeds.com

Meeting announcements and training opportunities

None

Have a safe, healthy and happy week!

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